

### Abstract

Apparatus and method are provided for displaying network object hierarchy information within a network management tool. When displaying information about a network object, the network management tool also displays a row of buttons representing different layers within the network hierarchy. A button representing the root object, or entire network, is displayed at one end, and a button representing the network object currently being displayed is displayed at the other end. Arranged between these are intermediate buttons representing network objects within the hierarchy between the root object and the network object being displayed, the intermediate buttons being ordered in accordance with the position within the hierarchy of the corresponding network objects. The invention allows an operator to quickly see for which point in the network hierarchy he or she is currently seeing network information.